FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 51 September 2001 Number 3

arkco
F
417
.W3
F55
51:3

University of Arkansas
Libraries, Fayetteville
ARK COLL
51:3
Received on: 10-10-01
Flashback, preserving the
past for the future

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Washington County Historical Society

118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Flashback is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Send all material for publication to the editor at 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. There is no payment for articles published in Flashback. The editor retains the right to edit all submitted articles prior to publication.

Membership is invited of those interested in preservation of Washington County's history. Dues are $25 annually for a General Membership and $15 annually for Student, Seniors, or Public Library Memberships. Donations, tax deductible according to current law, are gratefully received any time for special projects. Members are mailed Flashback every quarter. Past issues cost $6 each.

2000-2001 Officers

President .....Lionel Skaggs
Immediate Past President .....Michael Pritchard
1st Vice President (Membership) ....Susan Chadick
2nd Vice President (Finance) .....Nancy Hendricks
Secretary .....Gretchen Gearhart
Corresponding Secretary .....Judy Cockrum
Treasurer .....Dan Grubb
Flashback Editor .....Scott Van Laningham
Director of Historic Programs .....DeeDee Lamb

Board of Directors

David Ervin, Liz Finnell, Jane Gearhart, Babette Goodman, Ann Whitfield Jones, Lorene Maguire, Bob McKinney, Jimmy Rapert, Greg Reed, Doris Sharp, Lynda Starr, Carl Totemeier, C.W. Webb, Jeannie Whayne, Maynette Williams

Cover Photo: Reproduction of the cover of the edition of Flashback, Volume 2, Number 2-B, April, 1952.

FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 51 Sepember 2001 Number 3

Contents

Flashback Continues 1
Violent History 3
Last Hanging 5
Tontitown Cemetery 9
Henry Family Records 10
Little Rock Clock 12
College Cemetery 13
Trail of Tears 17
Our First Office 17
The Fox Hunt 18
Crowded Section of Fayetteville 19
Bricks in Old Main 26
Methodist Assembly 28
Student Publications Begin 34
Masonic Lodge Torn Down 36
WCHS Incorporates 41

WCHS Home Page

To call up the Washington County Historical Society's home page go to:
www.ipa.net/~wchs
The Society's E-mail address is wchse@ipa.net

The Flashback Continues

The celebration of the Washington County Historical Society's 50th anniversary continues, with another FLASHBACK flashback. The cover is a 1860 photograph of Fayetteville, which was used in the first paid advertisement in FLASHBACK in January 1960.

We begin this flashback with Professor Lemke's introduction of the 1956 "Crime and Punishment" issue. Space limitations prevent a reprinting of the gripping accounts of the Wright family murders at Cane Hill in 1839. Instead, we have focused on Lemke's historical critique of the different accounts, followed by Arkansas's move from hanging to electrocutions and the University's contribution to that effort.

In this issue, we detour from the FLASHBACK flashback briefly for some recent queries.

That's quickly followed by an item from an old FLASHBACK that puts current events in a new light. It's an item about the grandfather clock that was given to the president of the University of Arkansas from a Little Rock delegation in hopes of "an ever-present reminder of the close ties" that bind our communities. The inscription is dated November 9, 1927.

And then there is the protest over the removal of trees to make way for a parking lot, as reported by the Northwest Arkansas Times on November 15, 1960.

During the last half of its first decade, the Washington County Historical Society moved in to its first offices, filed its articles of incorporations and raised enough money to buy a mimeograph machine and a typewriter. And, of course, it continued to document and publish the history of our county - the coming of the Methodist Assembly on Mt. Sequoyah, the number of bricks used to build Old Main, the demise of the oldest Masonic lodge hall in Arkansas, the beginning of a student publication at the University. Also check out the description of an Ozark fox hunt by the

late Doug Jones, author of such historical novels as Winding Stair and Elkhorn Tavern.

Imagine your new editors surprise to find that the final issue of FLASHBACK for 1960 was devoted to pictures of the Gay Nineties and the Turn of the Century. Seems the recent suggestion from our own Charles Stewart has historical precedent. The plan is to devote the final edition of this year to pictures from 1951. If you have pictures of Washington County from 1951, please drop us a note.

And finally, please note your Society's new logo, which is reproduced below.

-- SVL

(From Volume VI, Number 1, January, 1956.)

Violent History or Historical Violence

By W.J. Lemke

There is a tendency on the part of amateur historians to romanticize certain tragic events in local history.

On the walls of my study hangs a beautiful old print entitled "The Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas." The print, in lovely pastel shades of pink, blue and green, was a gift from Wythe Walker, who found it in an old print shop in New York City.

The picture shows two cavalry regiments charging each other at a distance of about 60 feet. Flags flying, horses rearing, every man erect in his saddle and every button buttoned on the blue and gray uniforms. An Indian regiment on pinto ponies adds glamour to the scene. Even the little puff-balls of smoke blend pleasantly with the fleecy clouds.

Pea Ridge wasn't like that at all. It was mud and snow, point-blank artillery fire, guts oozing out of shell-torn abdomens, violence and death. Whatever glory there was didn't show until 25 years later when the survivors gathered for a reunion and to exchange lies. Amputees from Pea Ridge were a dime a dozen. The dead are in Fayetteville's two military cemeteries. The tears of widows and mothers do not appear on the record.

Washington County was born in travail. Its predecessor, Lovely County, was begotten by land-hungry squatters on Indian lands. The Red Men never had a chance - until 30 years later when the Whites, north and south, began to kill each other. Then the Indians seized the opportunity - the Pins murdering and pillaging in Washington County and Pike's Cherokees scalping their enemies at Pea Ridge.

Violence is not pleasant to contemplate, even in retrospect. Yet Washington County owes its existence to

pioneers who had a stern code and carried both a Bible and gun.

It is probably true that Our County was organized before there were enough law-abiding citizens to justify and protect civil government. Thirty miles on horseback separated the first sheriff from the county seat. As a matter of fact, in 1830 there were many more settlers living in the Evansville-Cane Hill region than were in the county seat of Fayetteville. Except for the sheriff, there was no civilian authority to enforce the law. So, when violence came, and murder, the pioneers took the law into their own hands and enforced it - even to the end of a rope.

What was probably the most notorious murder in the annals of Washington County was the killing of three members of the William Wright family at Cane Hill on the night of June 15, 1839. The historical significance of this crime lies in the fact that the murderers were captured, tried and punished by a group of the community's leading citizens who took the law into their own hands when the county government appeared unable to cope with the lawlessness along the county's west border - which was also the line between Arkansas and the Indian Territory.

The two classic accounts of the Wright family murders at Cane Hill are those of A.W. Arrington and J.P. Neal. Arrington in his account, written eight years after the event, says he was present at the trials and execution of the four men charged with the murders. James P. Neal does not say that he was an eye-witness. However, Colonel Neal wrote his account nearly 50 years afterwards, and it is quite possible that time and the caution of age restrained his pen. He certainly must have known also the circumstances, for he was a stepson of Andrew (Uncle Buck) Buchanan, who figured so prominently in the trial and hanging of the murderers. Neal was about 19 years old at the time of the Wright murders. It hardly seems possible that a teenage youngster would have missed the exciting events of 1839,

especially when he was so closely connected with many of the leading families of Cane Hill.

Most Washington County old-timers now living (1956) secured their information about the Wright murders either (1) from family accounts, handed down; or (2) from Goodspeed's history of northwest Arkansas, published in 1889. Few are familiar with Arrington and Neal. A careful reading of Goodspeed leads to the conclusion that the researcher of this Chicago publishing house secured much of his information from J.P. Neal. Neal fought in the War with Mexico, was a successful lawyer in Arkansas and Texas, laid out the town of Prairie Grove after the City War. He had come to Washington County in 1829, a year after the county was organized. He was a high-type citizen. He would be believed by his fellow citizens because of his early arrival in the county, his connection with the prominent families of Cane Hill, and his own reputation as a lawyer and citizen.

Alfred Arrington, eyewitness of the trials and execution of the Wright murderers, did not enjoy the confidence and goodwill of his fellow Washington County citizens. This was due to the fact that he liked his corn whiskey. Or, as Goodspeed's history puts it, "he frequently indulged in fits of dissipation." Arrington was, however, a preacher and a lawyer of more than local reputation, and his account of the lawlessness of 110 years ago cannot be passed off by such phrases as Colonel Neal's "Arrington wrote a highly imaginative account of the Cane Hill affairs."

Electrocution Replaces Hanging

The Arkansas law that substituted the electric chair for the hangman's noose, as a punishment for capital crime, was approved by the Governor on February 15, 1913.

The hanging of Omer Davis at Fayetteville on September 11, 1913, was supposedly the last legal execution by hanging in Arkansas. Since the electric chair

marks a milestone in Arkansas criminal law, FLASHBACK has searched the newspaper files for possible legal hangings that might have occurred after the Fayetteville execution. We have discovered at least one legal hanging that occurred 17 months after the hanging of Omer Davis at Fayetteville. This handing, according to a press dispatch in various Arkansas papers, occurred at Paris, Ark., on July 15, 1914, and was reported as follows:

> Paris, Ark., July 15 – Arthur Tillman was hanged here this morning for the murder of Amada Stephens. He was hanged in the jail yard at 7 a.m. He had to be carried to the gallows where he prayed for 15 minutes. This was the last legal hanging in the state. The militia remained on guard.

We have no interest in the Paris hanging other than historical accuracy and have made no investigation of it. How and why a hanging occurred in Paris after electrocution had officially become the method of execution, we do not know. The first man to die in the state's new electric chair, in 1913, was Lee Sims of Prairie County. He was convicted of assaulting a white woman. Under the law newspapers were not allowed to publish the details of the electrocution.

Before leaving the subject of Crime and Punishment, it should be stated as historical fact that the electric chair provided for by the electrocution law of 1913, which appropriated $1,500 for that purpose, was built by the late W.N. Gladson of Fayetteville, who was Dean of the College of Engineering of the University of Arkansas. In reply to my query, Dean Gladson wrote to me as follows on July 6, 1933:

The electric chair which was recently moved to Tucker Farm is the original chair. I do not recall the date of the original installation but it was installed when Governor Futrell was governor. The legislature had passed the law making electrocution the means of capital punishment and

appropriated $1,500 for installation of the chair. Bids were called for and the lowest I believe was $3,500. The governor feeling that the bids were too high asked me to visit penitentiaries at Richmond, Va., and Sing Sing, N.Y., learn what was being used there, and design and install the chair for Arkansas. The total cost to the state was $750 of which $250 was travel and subsistence expenses. -- Will N. Gladson.

In publishing this Crime and Punishment issue of FLASHBACK, we have tackled a subject that most historians have shunned. FLASHBACK itself has devoted much of its space to Our County's church, school and other cultural activities. But violence is a part of our heritage and it is "on the record." If this be treason, then history isn't worth serving. W.J. Lemke, editor.

Queries

Jay Meneffee, The Delvin & Taylor Company, 8035 Thornapple Road, Novelty, Ohio, 44072, writes: I am trying to determine whether Gilbert Cohea of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, fought in the Civil War. He was born February 9, 1822, the son of John A. Cohea, in Prairie Grove, and I believe he lived there his entire life.

Sandra Smith, RR 1 Box 153, Clifton Texas 76634-9712., writes: I am interested in a file with surname Wilmoth. John Wilson Wilmoth was born early 1860s, Washington County, Arkansas. Married Viola Rosa Clark, born September 31, 1860s, in Missouri (?). Would like to know names of parents.

Karen Bennett, 1858 Van Buren Cicle, Mountain View, California 94040, is researching Reeves and Bennett families and would like any information available. The Reeves lived in Washington County ca 1885, possibly in the Prairie Grove area. J.R. Reeves married Amelia Selvey, and they had a daughter, Margaret Maude (Maggie) Reeves, born in Arkansas in 1885. "Maggie" married Allen Ross

Bennett in 1906. Information is wanted on Richard Bennett who died in Farmington, January 29, 1888. His wife's name was Anne (Finlayson) Bennett who died June 19, 1919, also at Farmington.

Lou-Jean Holland Rehn, 2216 Holly St., Denver, CO 80207, e-mail ljrehn@yahoo.com is seeking information on Asa M. Holland, born at Jackson Co., Al., in 1843. Married first Nancy St. Clair, second Caroline (?). One son, John C. Holland, born at Jackson Co., Al., in 1864. Last known address for Asa M. Holland is 1900 Census in Prairie Twns., Washington County, AR., with wife Caroline and adopted daughter, Summers Matlee. Lived next door to nephew W. "Bill" D. Holland. Does anyone have information or know descendants of this family?

Patsy (Popejoy) Andraschko, W7075 Forest Road, Pearson, Wisconsin 54462, is seeking information on William Walton Popejoy and related persons. William purchased 600 acres of land in Washington County. 1870 Census records show the following two families in Richland Township, Washington County:

1. John Popejoy, 35, farmer, born in Tennessee; Matilda, 24, born in Kentucky; and Martha, 1, born in Arkansas.

2. William Popejoy, 55, house carpenter, born in Tennessee; Winnie, 52; Benj, 19; Tilman, 16; Mary, 15; Simon (Sine), 13; and Saul (Samuel), 12.

Other children of William Walton Popejoy were John, Alfred, Nehemiah Terrance, Jane, Thomas Edward, Amanda and William A. The latter was supposedly killed in 1863 by "bushwhackers" in his home during the Civil War.

(From Volume VI, Number 2, March, 1956)

St. Joseph's Cemetery at Tontitown

The Italian immigrants who came to Washington County in 1898 from their earlier settlement in Chicot County, Arkansas, found it necessary to establish a graveyard soon after their arrival. The earliest death date on any monument in the Tontitown cemetery is 1899, when Pacifico Bastianelli was laid to rest. His wife Catterina followed him in 1918. Both were born in Chiaravalle, Italy.

In the center of the cemetery at Tontitown is a beautiful memorial alter, erected in 1953 to the memory of the Rev. Pietro Bandini, the priest who led the Italian colony to Washington County. ...

The gravestones in the Tontitown cemetery are a Who's Who of the Italian families who left their native Italy for a new life in America. There are a few American names scattered through this graveyard but most of the headstones bear such inscriptions as: "Born in the Province of Ancono, Italy," and "Born in Staro, Italia." ...

As most of our readers know, the Italian settlers of Tontitown came to Washington County after having become dissatisfied with their first home in America - on the Sunnyside plantation near Lake Village in southeast Arkansas. Malaria had taken its toll on the emigrants. Those who died were buried in either the little Catholic cemetery on the plantation across Lake Chicot or in the Lake Village town cemetery.

I have made several visits to Sunnyside but it was not till last summer (1955) that I found the old plantation graveyard. There were only a few gravestones, so it was not possible to get many names. However, in the Lake Village cemetery are many members of the Italian families that stayed in Chicot County when half the colony followed Father Bandini to Washington County. ...

A comparison of this list with the names of the

Tontitown cemetery will reveal no duplications. The Italians who emigrated to what is now Tontitown in Washington County came as entire families. I have no idea on what basis the Sunnyside colony divided. Malaria and unfamiliarity with cotton culture are often given as reasons for the unhappiness of the Italian immigrants in Chicot County who left that section for a new home in the Arkansas Ozarks. But surely those who remained in southeast Arkansas were just as susceptible to malaria and just as allergic to chopping cotton as those who came to northwest Arkansas.

I have a feeling - but no evidence to back it up - that the Ardemagni, Morsani, Pianalto, Bastianelli, Zulpo, Fiori, and other families, followed Pietro Bandini to the Ozarks because of a nostalgic longing for the hills - for the highlands that reminded them of their native Italia.

They came. They saw. They conquered. And the descendants of these Italian immigrants of 60 years ago are now active in the busy life of a 1956 Washington County. Those who remained in Chicot County are just as active and successful down there. And a study of the Alumni register of the University of Arkansas will reveal many Italian names from Chicot County, as well as from Tontitown.

(From Volume VI, Number 3, May, 1956)

The Henry Family Records

The discovery of more and more source material pertaining to the early history of Washington County is surprising. It would seem that after a hundred years there would be nothing left of discover. Yet the WCHS during the past five years has turned up a wealth of material and there is no telling how much more remains undiscovered.

...

Our latest find is correspondence and other material

pertaining to the pioneer Henry family who settled in the Oxford Bend area in our county's earliest days. The first Henrys to come to Washington County were probably James and Luvica Henry who arrived in the early 1830's. FLASHBACK is able to print the Henry records through the courtesy of Mrs. Langford, a granddaughter of Marshall Henry, Confederate soldier whose letters will appear in our next issue. Mrs. Roy Brumfield, a member of our Society, learned of the existence of the Henry material and persuaded Mrs. Langford to let us publish it. ...

The collection of Henry family records contains a copy of the Fayetteville Weekly Arkansian. It is the issue of April 12, 1861 (Vol. 3, No. 4.). William E. Smith was the editor and publisher.

What makes this issue of unusual interest is the fact that the debate of union vs. disunion was at its height. The paper contains the "Proclamation of the President of the Convention of the People of Arkansas" calling for an election on the first Monday in August 1861 on the question of "cooperation or secession." The proclamation is signed by David Walker, chairman, and E.C. Boudinot, secretary of the Convention.

The issue contains several editorial attacks on David Walker and Colonel Gunter, two of Washington County's delegates to the Convention who had both voted against secession in the first meeting of the Convention. Both men were in favor of cooperating with the other border states and both changed their vote from cooperation to secession when the Convention reconvened. Also both later served in the Confederate army with the rank of Colonel. The issue contains "An Open Letter to the Hon. David Walker" from which the following paragraph is quoted:

"Did you not charge Hon. T.C. Hindman, Governor Rector and others, in a word, the whole Southern Rights party with being Secessionist and traitors? And that their sole object was to destroy 'this glorious union' and thereby

create more offices for themselves? Now let me ask you in all candor if you did not hear Hindman make his last speech in the Court house in this city and if he did not then and there announce to the people that their constitutional rights had been trampled under foot by the Black Republican party?"

The most important news story in the issue tells of the presentation of a flag on April 6, 1861. The flag was raised on a flagstaff that stood in the courthouse yard. It was probably the first Confederate flag flown in Fayetteville. Mrs. J.L. Dickson made the address on behalf of the ladies and presented the "beautiful ensing of southern chivalry through Dr. C.W. Deane to the gentlemen." The paper quotes Mrs. Dickson's speech in full, as well as Dr. Deane's response. Then follows this paragraph:

"When Dr. Deane had concluded, the beautiful banner commenced ascending, and at the top of the flagstaff floated out gallantly to the breeze. The Brass Band then struck up 'Dixie Land' after which three cheers were proposed for Jeff Davis and the Southern Confederacy, which was responded to by the immense throng with a hearty good will."

The flag raising was followed by an oration by Major Reagan. Colonel Gunter was called on for a speech but refused to speak under the flag, so the audience went into the courthouse to listen to him

The Arkansian's account closed with this: "We cannot conclude this article and deny the meed of praise that is due the saloon keepers who, at the request of the ladies, closed their doors during the day."

Clock Was Gift from Visitors

A handsome "grandfather's clock" 7 feet tall, which stood in the office of the University president for a quarter century, is now in the office of Marvin Miller, University librarian. It bears an engraved plate with this inscription:

"Presented to the University of Arkansas by this group of visiting Little Rock citizens in token of their appreciation of the happy day which they spent as guests of the people of Fayetteville and the University and with the fond hope that it will be an ever-present reminder of the close ties of friendship which united the two communities. November 9th, 1927."

(From Volume VI, Number 6, November, 1956)

The College Cemetery

The College Cemetery, as it was called, was at the northwest corner of West Maple street and Garland avenue. It was a burial ground started for students in the 70's. There was a long row of graves in front running north to south and scattered graves beside. A neat plank fence surrounded the grounds and the gate was at the southeast towards town. It was a rustic place, rather untended, but not altogether unattractive, for the sun set beautifully over it, and wild flowers grew in the poor soil. ...

The cemetery was a necessity provided by the A.I.U. authorities before trains, buses - or planes - reached Fayetteville. Students died, most of them from Typhoid fever in summer and pneumonia in winter, and embalming was still a new practice in town. Eventually the cemetery was abandoned and about 35 years ago the University removed the burials to other cemeteries and built an athletic field on the site. RG

Editorial

This is the last issue of FLASHBACK for 1956. It marks the end of our sixth year of continuous publication. We have been able to do it only because there are 300 persons sufficiently interested in our pioneer heritage to pay $3 per year for membership in the Washington County Historical Society. Their names are on the preceding pages.

We need 500 members. That would give us a budget of $1,500 and permit us to broaden our activities. We also need some big givers - individuals or business firms who will buy 10 or 20 memberships for schools, libraries or friends.

Most of you know that our Society is one of the top county historical societies in the United States. We have been twice cited for honors by the American Association for State and Local History. Our publications are rated highly by authorities in the field of local history. Published catalogs of dealers in America are asking as much as $10 for bulletins that we published four years ago at $1. Complete files of FLASHBACK and of our booklets are in the New York Public Library, the Library of The American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass., the Universities of Arkansas and Texas, the Arkansas and Kansas state historical societies - and all of them paid cash. We have no free list and no honorary memberships. We need every dollar to keep out of the red. And in six years of operation - 36 issues of Flashback and 25 historical booklets - we have managed to break even.

As for tangible results that our Society's service has produced, we cannot quote figures as glibly as Chambers of Commerce or Industrial Foundations can. But our Society has been the leading factor in making northwest Arkansas history conscious. One out of every two tourists is interested in history. Tourists mean dollars and cents. Our Society does not ask for a free $75,000 site - we've got Tom Feathers' office. But we would like just one $3 membership from Chambers of Commerce, the Playgrounds Association, and other groups who profess to be promoting the tourism industry. Shirt factories and hosiery mills are OK, but tourists will still be visiting the battlefield of Prairie Grove long after shirts and hose have gone out of style.

I mentioned Tom Feathers, our secretary-treasurer. In

my last paragraph of 1956 I should like to pay tribute to Tom for his years of devoted service to our Society and to the cause of Washington County history. We could not have done it without him. Not only did he let us use his office for storing supplies, books, cuts, files, but he did all the mailing, kept the books, carried on a terrific correspondence, took care of visitors, dug up much important material, was our Society's county-wide representative. And kept us out of the red. My job was $^3/_4$ fun and $^1/_4$ work. Tom's job was $^3/_4$ work and $^1/_4$ fun. I hope he'll continue to serve our Society for many more years as its efficient secretary-treasurer.

-- W.J. Lemke, editor

And don't forget that you and I are enjoying the good life in Washington County today only because others paved the way. So, remember the pioneers. And send us your $3.

(From Volume VI, Number 6, November, 1956)

True Story from Old Cane Hill

Jim McCulloch and George Mackie were friends who made the Gold Rush together, leaving Cane Hill in March 1850 and heading west. Jim was tall, not too thin, and George was shorter, partly because of a peg leg that he had worn since a childhood accident.

While crossing the desert, George's mule went down. Jim McCulloch went on to the hills, got water, and carried it back to George and his mule. George told Jim that some day he would pay back the debt. Both returned to Arkansas wiser but not richer.

George sided with the Feds in the Civil War and was in the forces occupying Washington County. The information came through that some Confederate soldiers had slipped through and were on furlough at their homes in Cane Hill.

Jim McCulloch was among them. George Mackie asked to be sent to bring them. He slipped into the McCulloch home after dark, after sending his companions away from the area, and warned Jim McCulloch. He told Jim where he (George) would put his horse so that Jim could get away and back to the Confederate lines. It all worked out - Mackie reported his horse stolen and Jim got away.

-- Fount Richardson

FLASHBACK is looking for historical anecdotes similar to the above. Send us any that you know. We will put them in shape for publication. -- WJL

Society Holds Annual Meeting and Election

Robert R. Logan is the new president of the Washington County Historical Society for 1957. He succeeds Dr. Fount Richardson, who served as president for the past two years. Other 1957 officers are: Fred McCuistion, vice president; Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer; and W.J. Lemke, editor of publications. These officers were elected at the annual meeting held in the Mountain Inn, Fayetteville, January 22.

The meeting opened with the presentation of Washington County Pioneer Certificates to three descendants of pioneer families: Mrs. Cornelia Stuart (Rhea-McIlroy), Mrs. Margaret Bell (Pittman) and Robert R. Logan (Skelton). President Richardson made the presentations. ...

During a discussion period, various matters "for the good of the Society" were discussed, including legal incorporation of the Society, the Butterfield Overland Mail centennial in 1958, the Folk Museum at Prairie Grove, and the possibility of a joint pilgrimage with the Benton County society to Elkhorn Tavern on the 95th anniversary of the battle in March.

The new president, Dr. Logan, then took the chair and paid tribute to the work done by the Society in the past and

promised a stepped-up program of activities for 1957. F.S. Root brought the meeting to a close with a short speech in which he said that it was the most pleasant, harmonious and formal meeting of the WCHS in his memory.

(From Volume VII, Number 4, July, 1957)

A Diary of the Trail of Tears

By W.J. Lemke

Old records fascinate me. The more I delve into Washington County history, the greater the surprises. It did not occur to me that anyone who traveled the Trail of Tears with the emigrating Cherokees in 1838-1839 could have kept a diary. The only eye-witness account I had read was that of A.W. Arrington of Fayetteville, in his Desperadoes of the Southwest." There can be little doubt that Arrington saw the Cherokees pass through Fayetteville and camp for the night on the Stone farm, where the Fayetteville high school now stands. Arrington names names and places.

So it was a real surprise when I visited the Mansion Home in Newtonia, Mo., on May 29 and discovered in an upstairs room of that historic old brick home, the diary of Dr. W.I.I. Morrow, who accompanied the Indians on their tragic journey. Although I read only a page or two, I can tell the state historians of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma that here is a real find - never before published.

Society Will Have Office

Directors of the Washington County Historical Society met on June 11 and voted to rent office space at 12 $^{1}/_{2}$ E. Center St., Fayetteville. The matter of employing a part-time office manager was discussed but no definite action was taken. Present at the Board meeting were Misses Grace Albright, Rowena Gallaway, Bernice Karnes, Mrs. Mertye Bagby, and Messers Fount Richardson, W.J. Lemke

and R.R. Logan.

(From Volume VII, Number 5, August 1957)

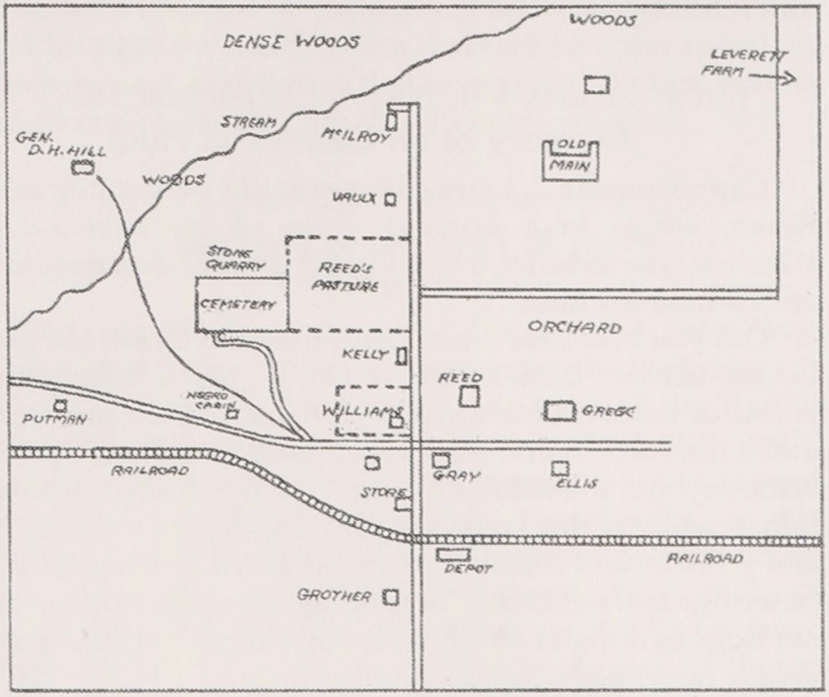
Memory of an Ozark Fox Hunt

Capt. Douglas C. Jones of Fayetteville, now stationed in Korea, writes in a nostalgic vein of his boyhood in Winslow. He includes the following graphic description of an old-time fox hunt:

Did you ever hear a real honest-to-God Ozark fox race: Let me tell you there's nothing like it. Just a little yellow world of lantern light around you, and a little projection into it now and then from a tree or bush, and off in that big black beyond, the strangest noise you ever heard. A music rather, with the dogs onto the fox. They come toward you and go away and their voices sound different when they're on a ridge and when they're running through a hollow. It's not dogs barking at all. It's the new sound, but too many people never have, never will hear it.

Standing out there on some old sassafras-overgrown field with a bunch of people, all in overalls, all with horny hands and faces, and they know. Which dog's leading, and which one'll get thrown off. They even know the fox. The fox likes a race as much as the dogs and the men. He seems to realize that it's not really a hunt at all, but just a race. Nobody wants to catch him. They'll save him for another day. Sometimes, with the ground wet after rain, though, there's nothing the men can do, and the pack closes in on him and of course, not being complicated and stupid, they do the only thing to the fox they know to do. They kill him. And all the men are pretty shook up about it because the fox was a good runner.

It's been a while since I heard the dogs running. I guess there may not be many fox left. Too much barbed wire and automobile.



From map by Miss Hattie Williams

(From Volume VII, Number 6, November, 1957)

Crowded Section of Fayetteville

Anyone familiar with the crowded section of Fayetteville between the railroad and the University campus today might find it difficult to visualize this area 75 years ago. The map section shows that there were few houses in 1882 and that the only streets in this section were three that later acquired the names of Dickson, Gregg and Arkansas avenue. The only buildings shown on the campus were Old Main and the original frame dormitory. Four of the houses shown on the map are still standing in 1957, but the McIlroy home will shortly disappear from the scene. General Hill's home still stands on Duncan street, but has been much remodeled. Mention of General Hill poses an interesting question: How did he get from his home to his job at the University? Miss Williams thinks he

walked through the woods, along a path that today is Duncan street. Or perhaps he rode his horse down the lane past the cemetery and up what is now Dickson street. The latter would be more fitting for a former Confederate General. And it is safe to assume that he had no parking problem on the campus. -- WJL

Society Has Its Own Quarters

The Washington County Historical Society has rented an office suite at 12 $^1/_2$ E. Center St., Fayetteville. As soon as we get some rooms furnished, we will put the Society's books, pictures, and historical material on display. If any of our members have tables, chairs, bookcases, etc., that they would like to donate to the Society, please telephone Tom Feathers or W.J. Lemke and we will pick them up. We have already received chairs from F.S. Root and Fred McCuistion and two bookcases from George Pappas. Beginning on Nov. 1, our offices will be open three days each week - on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We hope eventually to employ a full-time secretary and have our offices open every day. The Society has also rented a post office box. Letters pertaining to Society business should be addressed to Box 237, Fayetteville, Ark.

Editorially Speaking

A historical theme (Golden Anniversary) featured the annual dinner meeting (Oct. 8) of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. A highlight of the program was the showing of slides of old and new Fayetteville, with narration and background music. The pictures, collected and shown by Wes Gordon, C of C secretary, date back to 1870 and include portraits of all former presidents of the C of C. Many of the ex-presidents were present at the dinner, including 15 who have been long-time members of our WCHS. Prolonged applause greeted the introduction of

W.S. Campbell and F.S. Root, both of whom have previously been cited by our Society as "Distinguished Citizens." A surprise was the presentation to your editor of a plaque on which is engraved: "Appreciation to Walter J. Lemke for Exceptional Service to Our Community in the Field of History." My thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for this unexpected and flattering recognition.

This issue of FLASHBACK is the sixth and last for this year. It is the largest number that we have yet published. It contains Washington County material that has never before been in print. Our publication is outstanding among county historical publications, both in quantity and quality of its contents. If that be immodest, make the most of it. We see enough county historical publications, from Wisconsin to North Carolina, to know that Washington County, Arkansas ranks near the top. Our Society can point to many accomplishments, all of them made possible by the folks whose names appear as members on the preceding pages. But we can't stand still. We need 500 members at $3 each for 1958. That would give us a budget of $1,500 - small enough when compared to the thousands that are being poured into efforts to lure Big Industry to the Ozarks. Yet history is a part of the state's second biggest industry - tourism. Will you be one of the 500 WCHS members for 1958?

-- WJL

(From Volume VIII, Number 1, January, 1958)

An Editorial

1958 should be a banner year for local history in northwest Arkansas. The Arkansas Historical Association will hold its annual meeting at Rogers in May. The program will include a visit to the Elkhorn battlefield, a drive over a stretch of the original Overland Mail route, an inspection of Coin Harvey's "pyramid" at Monte Ne, and a

trip to Battlefield Park at Prairie Grove.

Several communities have already set up committees to arrange for an observance of the Butterfield Overland Mail centennial in September. It is probable that Fort Smith will have an outstanding celebration, including a re-enactment of the Overland Mail banquet and ball of 1858. Judge Paul Wolfe is chairman for Sebastian County. Other northwest Arkansas county chairmen are Mrs. Hugh Park (Crawford), Dr. Fount Richardson (Washington), and F.P. Rose (Benton).

At Prairie Grove, plans are progressing for the expansion of Battlefield Park, completion of the Historic Wall, and erection of the Pioneer Village in which arts and crafts of a century ago will be demonstrated. The annual Battlefield Reunion will be held in August. In charge of the development at Prairie Grove is the Battlefield Commission, which was set up by the last legislature. Members of the Commission, appointed by the Governor, are Fred McCuistion, Glenn Will, Mrs. J.C. Parks, Mrs. Lee Seamster, and W.J. Lemke.

The Pea Ridge Battlefield Commission has completed appraisal of land values and begun the purchase of land for what is hoped will eventually become a National Park. The first parcel of land acquired is the historic Winton Spring property. According to newspaper reports, a conflict has developed over the Elkhorn Tavern property, which may delay acquisition of this important feature of the battlefield. Members of the Pea Ridge Battlefield Commission are Neill Bohlinger, Homer Freeman, Hugh Park, Carl H. Brown, and Max Walker.

Much of the credit for the increased interest in history in northwest Arkansas is due to the activity of the county historical societies, especially those of Crawford, Washington, Benton, and Carroll counties, all of whom publish historical periodicals. The Crawford County

Historical Society has just published the third number of its magazine, The Heritage (42 pages). The newspapers of the area are supporting the efforts of the local historical groups. Civic clubs and Chambers of Commerce are lagging behind in their support, except in Rogers and Fort Smith. In Rogers the three civic clubs (Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary) are backing the Overland Mail celebration. In Fort Smith, the Chamber of Commerce furnished the big push that started the preparations for the Border City's observance in September of the 100th anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail.

Since there are no funds available for publicizing these activities, the projects depend on interested individuals to put them over. In other words, it is a labor of love. Chambers of Commerce and civic clubs are industry-minded. In their search for a "balanced economy," they are apt to overlook not only our second biggest industry, Tourism, (and how the tourists love history!), but also our area's pioneer heritage. And when no one any longer cares where we came from, or how we got where we are, that will be the end. The sputniks can have it.

Society Names Officers for 1958

At the Society's annual dinner meeting on Jan. 28, Dupree D. Deaver was elected president for 1958. Other officers were named as follows: J.E. Bunch, vice president; Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer; Miss Grace Albright, recording secretary; W.J. Lemke, editor of publications.

Robert R. Logan, retiring president, presented "Pioneer" certificates to these descendants of Washington County pioneers: Miss Bernice Karnes, Mrs. Jewell Benbrook Hamblen, D.D. Deaver, and L.W. Searcy.

A feature of the program was the showing of slides of "Old-time Fayetteville" by Wesley Gordon, manager of the Chamber of Commerce. The pictures aroused animated

discussion, as members sought to identify persons and places. As a result of the success of the Chamber of Commerce slides, the WCHS will undertake to build up its own collection of slides of historic scenes.

The retiring officers gave their reports for the past year. The treasurer's report showed a balance of hand of $350. It was announced that the Society's recent "historic auction" brought in $230 for the mimeograph fund. Another auction of historical relics and antiques will be held in February, in an effort to raise $700 for the purchase of a mimeograph and typewriter. Members are asked to donate books and other articles that can be sold at the February auction.

After nearly three hours of Washington County history, Professor Logan turned the gavel over to the 1958 president, D.D. Deaver. The latter promised a vigorous campaign to increase the Society's membership.

(From Volume VIII, Number 2, March, 1958.)

The U.S. Post Offices of Washington County

With this installment we begin the history of U.S. postal service in Washington County. The Washington County Historical Society has acquired photostatic copies of the records in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., of all post offices in our county. These original records insure accuracy in names and dates.

The first post office established in Washington County was named Vineyard. It was in the extreme southwest corner of the county, near the Indian line. Lewis Evans was named postmaster of Feb. 21, 1829. Evans was the first sheriff of Washington County (October, 1828). The town of Evansville is named for him. His bond as postmaster was $300 and his sureties were Jonathan Allen and Jacob Chandler.

In pioneer days the postal business was conducted in the home of the postmaster. It is not known were Lewis

Evans lived. The name Vineyard covered the entire region from Evansville to Skylight. The name (from "The Lord's Vineyard") was given to the settlement by John Latta, who settled on Evansville Creek shortly after the organization of Washington County. John Latta succeeded Evans as Vineyard postmaster in 1835. For three years, from 1835 to 1838, the Vineyard post office was located in the two-story log home of the Lattas - the identical building that is now (March, 1958) being removed to Prairie Grove and restored in Battlefield Park.

The name of the county's first post office was changed from Vineyard to Evansville on Dec. 27, 1838, and it seems fitting that Lewis Evans again was postmaster.

Society Holds Second Historical Auction

Encourage by the success of the first "Historical Auction" in December, the Society staged a second auction in February and added $300 to our mimeograph fund. Among the items sold were the following:

A file of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly for eight years (32 numbers), donated by Miss Jobelle Holcombe, which brought $30.

An old lace tablecloth and dresser scarf, donated by Mrs. W.J. Lemke, which were bid at $33.

Ten old histories, mostly Civil War, donated by Prof. F.S. Root, which sold for $80.

Other donors of historical items to the February auction were Miss Hattie Williams, Fred Kantz, Mrs. Mertye Bagby, Mrs. Margaret Bell, Mrs. H.O. Davis, Mrs. Cornelia Stuart, Tom Feathers, Miss Mamie Phillips, and Hugh Park.

The Society now has $500 in its special fund for the purchase of a mimeograph and a typewriter. One more auction will be held April 29. Members of the Society are asked to donate surplus historical items.

(From Volume VIII, Number 3, May, 1958.)

Third Auction Completes Drive for Funds

As a result of our three "historical auctions," the Society now has the money ($750) for the purchase of a duplicating machine and a typewriter. This equipment will be installed as soon as we get our offices at 12 1/2 E. Center St., Fayetteville, in shape. Shelves have been built, desk and files installed. The walls are bare but we plan to cover them with old pictures and documents. We would especially like to have some old certificates, commissions, and land patents, which we will frame and display in our rooms.

Green's Studio has presented the Society with an enlargement of a rare photograph - a view of Fayetteville from the top of North Tower of Old main, taken by Grabill in 1900. We are having this photo framed for our new offices. We can use other old Washington County photos.

We appreciate very much the handsome donations of historical relics, books, and antiques for our auctions, and the liberal bids made by purchasers. We are also grateful for several cash donations to furnish our new offices. One of these, a check for $15, has just come from Miss Mary Cox of Sanderson, Texas. This kind of support makes all the work worthwhile.

We will announce the opening of our WCHS office in uptown Fayetteville in a few days. After that, the office will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Visitors who want to talk history are welcome.

2,600,000 Bricks In Old Main

It has long been believed that the brick used in building Old Main of the University was made on the campus. The brick maker's name is given as J.L. Kelton who, according to an often retold story, refused to work on Sunday and thereby lost 200,000 bricks in his kiln.

The Washington County Historical Society has come into possession of an original Bill of Sale, dated December 22, 1873, which indicates that part of the brick used in Old Main was made on the old Hunt place (originally the Yell home, "Waxhaws") at the south end of College Avenue - a mile and half from the University campus. The brick maker was J.N. Sager.

This document, presented to the Society by Frank Rupert, reads as follows:

"Know all men by these present that I, Jacob N. Sager, of the County of Washington, State of Arkansas, for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars and or other good and valuable consideration (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged), do grant, bargain, and sell unto Thomas J. Hunt of said County and State, my undivided half interest in and to the following described chattels, effects and interests, to-wit:

Dump Carts and Harness, Shovels, Spades, Mattocks Brock Moulds, Pumps, Wheelbarrows, Wood Boards, Lumber and all other articles and effects used by Hunt and myself in the making and burning of Brick on the Brick Yard situated on the farm of said Hunt, near and south of the Town of Fayetteville, State aforesaid, together with my interest in the proceeds of all brick burnt upon said yard for the building know as the Arkansas Industrial University, and I hereby authorize the said Hunt to collect the same and appropriate it to his own use and benefit,

To have and to hold to him, the said Thomas J. Hunt, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof I, Jacob N. Sager, have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22nd days of December, A.D. 1873.

The man who signature appears on this bill of sale as witness was none other than the contractor who was then engaged in erecting Old Main - William Zera Mayes. His story was told by Mary Lou Campbell, who got much of

her information from Mrs. Jim Carlisle, the daughter of W.Z. Mayes, wrote:

"Contractor Mayes had told them (the Board of Visitors on Aug. 10, 1875) that the building contained 2,600,000 bricks, made from clay found inside the campus, burnt in a kiln were the tennis courts and Veterans Village now stand. He didn't tell them about the full kiln of brick lost because the man who was in charge of burning the bricks refused to work on Sunday."

(From Volume VIII, Number 4, July, 1958.)

Methodist Assembly on Mt. Sequoyah

The WCHS archives contain a circular published in 1922, promoting the development of the Methodist Assembly on Mt. Sequoyah. The circular contains a plat of the lots offered for sale and reads as follows:

Fayetteville's donation of $35,000 will pay for the initial improvements, so that it will be possible to open in June 1923; but fuller development requires more funds. To secure additional funds and to enable friends to have homes near the Assembly, the Trustees have arranged to sell 149 choice lots Dec. 8, 1922.

The almost level tract of 30 acres on top of Mt. Sequoyah is reserved for the Assembly grounds. Here will be erected an Administration building, cafeteria, dormitories, cottages, chapel with classrooms, and later a great auditorium and departmental buildings. There will be a 50,000-gallon water tower, outdoor amphitheater, automobile camp, and athletic field.

Sewer and water mains will be laid and connections guaranteed and required. The city plant will supply water all the year, and the light plant will furnish current. Buyers can build good house and occupy or rent the whole year.

The smallest lots are about 25 x 60, the largest 110 x 200. Two small lots together make a medium sized lot. The

smallest lots are intended for those who merely want ground for a summer cottage.

(From Volume VIII, Number 5, September, 1958.)

Ragland Books Reveal Local History

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lewis, who bought the old Ragland home on East Dickson street, Fayetteville, are now engaged in restoring this house. They have acquired the doors and walnut staircase from the old Byrnes house at the corner of Willow and Lafayette and are placing these in the Ragland house. The staircase is a beautiful example of the fine woodwork of 75 years ago.

The Ragland house, it is believed, stands on the site of the McGarrah house - the first log home built in Fayetteville (1828). The McGarrahs owned the entire area east of College avenue, from Center street to Lafayette and built their first home near the Big Spring from which Spring street gets its name.

When the Lewises took possession of the Ragland home, they found several hundred books scattered around the rooms. They have given theses books to the Washington County Historical Society and we have salvaged 150 books in fair to good condition. They books were part of the library of the Rev. N.M. Ragland. Mrs. Lewis asked if we found the Ragland family Bible, it be preserved. Well, we found the Bible ...

(From Volume VIII, Number 6, October, 1958.)

A Journal Entry

The following is taken from the Journal of Mrs. Susan (Sneed) Morgan, daughter of Sebron G. and Marinda Sneed, begun September 9, 1924, at the request of a granddaughter: ...

One other incident of note was the funeral of ex-Governor Archibald Yell. At the close of his second term of

office in 1845 he raised a company of volunteers and joined General Zach Taylor in his siege of Mexico. He was killed in the battle of Buenavista. His remains were packed in a harness box filled with charcoal and somehow reached Vera Cruz, and home in 1847, and was buried on his home place between his two wives, where he had erected a tall marble monument to their memory. This was the largest assemblage of people I had ever witnessed. His youngest daughter, Artimesia, named for her mother, was a classmate of mine, and I loved her dearly. At those close of the session she was sent to her mother's relatives in Tennessee, and at her first session in boarding school, near an open fire, her clothing ignited and she inhaled the blaze and lived but a short time. Sad news for her classmates. On the day of her father's funeral she was dressed in deep mourning, but her class was in white with black sashes and a black bow on our heads, and we marched near the casket, a long remembered day for every one of us. The only son, Clinton Yell, was a classmate of my brother, T.E. Sneed. They met once after they were practicing lawyers many years after. Clinton married one of our classmates, Mary Hawkins. We had few correspondences, as letter writing and receiving was so unsatisfactory, but often had news of our old friends by prospectors being entertained in our home in Austin.

Gazette Publishes "Chronicles of Arkansas"

The Arkansas Gazette began publication in September of a four-times-a-week historical feature entitled "Chronicles of Arkansas." The material, edited by Margaret Smith Ross, is from the collection of Arkansiana gathered by J.N. Heiskell, publisher of the Gazette. This collection is unique, containing hundreds of rare items and much original source material pertaining to Arkansas history. I have examined the Heiskell collection casually

and can testify to its value. There are many items that can be found in no other collection of Arkansiana.

I have long been an admirer of J.N. Heiskell, not only for his national ranking as an editor but also for his devotion to the cause of history. Twenty-five years ago I sold him on the idea of publishing in the Gazette my series of drawings entitled "Arkansiana," followed later by a series entitled "Men Who Made Arkansas History."

I understand that his collection will eventually go to the Little Rock Public Library, which will build an addition to house it. Meanwhile, all who love Arkansas are permitted to share this remarkable collection through the Gazette's new feature, "Chronicles of Arkansas."

As for Mrs. Ross, who is cataloging the Heiskell collection and editing the "Chronicles" - I have known her for 18 years and can testify to her scrupulous accuracy where history is concerned, her wide knowledge of the field, and her devotion to the cause of Arkansas history.

J.N. Heiskell has been a member of the Washington County Historical Society ever since our organization in 1951. Also, his collection contains every FLASHBACK and all 32 booklets that we have published. If it's about Arkansas, it's in the Heiskell collection.

-- W.J. Lemke

Professor F.S. Root

The death of Prof. F.S. Root removed one of our Society's most faithful members. He helped get the Society organized in 1950 and seldom missed a meeting during the past eight years. He was usually accompanied by his sister, Miss Lutie Root and Mrs. Cleo Ucker. He was a member of the Society's board of directors for five years. In 1953, he received the Society's citation as "Distinguished Citizen of Washington County." As most of our members know, he was the chief builder of Fayetteville's public school system, having served our schools as teacher and

superintendent for nearly half a century. His name lives on, the Root Auditorium on the Junior High campus and the new Root Elementary School.

(From Volume IX, Number 1, February, 1959.)

Annual Report and Election of Officers

The annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25, in Wesley Hall, Fayetteville. President D.D. Deaver presided. Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer, gave a financial report, as follows:

Receipts

Balance as of Jan. 1, 1958	$295.04	
Membership dues for 1958	840.00	
Sale of booklets, back issues, etc	559.92	
		1,694.96

Expenditures

Office rent	$180.00	
Post Office Box Rent	8.40	
Printing and Supplies	774.52	
Stencils and Ink	85.39	
Engravings	36.28	
Pictures (copying)	54.75	
Labor	181.25	
Postage	129.00	
Miscellaneous	141.00	
		1.570.69

Balance as of January 1, 1959	124.27
Mimeograph Fund, balance 1/1/'59	729.63
Picture & Slide Fund, balance	44.00
Total cash on hand	897.90

W.J. Lemke, editor, reported on the Society's publications - FLASHBACK and the booklet series. Dr. Fount Richardson, chairman, reported for the nominating committee. The committee, composed of Dr. Richardson, Mrs. Bagby, Professor Logan, and Rev. and Mrs. Bearden, recommended the election of the following officers for 1959:

President - Roy A. Scott
Vice President - L.W. Searcy
Sec.-Treasurer - Tom Feathers
Corresponding Sec. - Miss Grace Albright
Editor of Publications - W.J. Lemke

On motion the committee's report was accepted and these officers declared elected by acclamation. Following adjournment, members of the Society inspected the permanent historical exhibit of Central Methodist Church and the newly-built marble memorial bearing the names of former pastors of the church.

Local News And Notes

The WCHA offers a belated thank-you to the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce for having picked up the tab for the local observance of the Centennial of the Overland Mail last September. Actually there was no Fayetteville observance. Certainly nothing like the big celebration held everywhere from St. Louis to San Francisco. Van Buren and Fort Smith shamed us. So did Springdale and Rogers. But the Centennial Caravan did spend a night in Fayetteville and the Chamber of Commerce did pay for meals and rooms for the visitors. These bills totaled $110. The Chamber of Commerce also paid a bill of $74 for printing letterheads for the advance of the Centennial publicity. Again, thanks.

(From Volume IX, Number 3, July, 1959.)

The Beginning of Student Publications At the University of Arkansas

The first periodical published by the students of the Arkansas Industrial University made its appearance in April 1893, under the title "Arkansas University Magazine." The editor-in-chief was Julia R. Vaulx; the business manager was George Vaughan. Both became University staff members in later years, Miss Vaulx as Librarian and Mr. Vaughan as law professor.

Associate editors of the first student publication were C.F. Armistead (alumni), O.P. Brewer and C.J. Drees (collegiana), A.M. Vance and H.C. Evins (military and athletic), Abbie Leverett (literary), A.J. Myar (literary societies), Robert Meadearis, Gertie Gunner, and Ena Davies (personals).

The Faculty Advisory Committee consisted of Julia F. Howell for the College of Arts, Jerome McNeill for the College of Science, and C.V. Kerr for the College of Mechanic Arts and Engineering.

The lead editorial in Volume I, Number 1, April, 1893, reads thus:

> With the first issue of the Arkansas University Magazine the students of the University have entered upon a path hitherto untrodden by them. Although the question of a college journal has from time to time been discussed among us, never till now has an attempt been made to put the plans into execution. While other state universities and the smaller colleges of our own state have for a long time been publishing magazines that are an honor and credit to them, we have been content to be mere spectators of their work, with no thought that we might follow in their footsteps. To Prof. McNeill we owe our thanks for at last arousing our energies by

showing us that the students of the Arkansas University are quite as capable of doing this work as are those of other colleges....

Besides doing good in other directions, our paper may bring to light talents that now lie hidden among our students. Some may find in journalism a field that they never before dreamed of being open to them, so that in the future our classical graduates will not feel that the Law is the only department in which they can gain fame and distinction, while the "mute inglorious Milton" who may be among us will not be compelled to go to their graves "unwept, unhonored and unsung" for lack of an opportunity of making themselves heard.

Eight issues were published during the Magazine's first year. No. 8 appeared In November, 1893. All eight issues were printed by M.W. McRoy, "over the People's Furniture Store, north side of Square, Fayetteville."

The second volume of the Arkansas University Magazine began with the April, 1894, issue. James D. Head was editor and George Vaughan continued as business manager. The Magazine secured a second-class postal permit, as a monthly publication. The subscription price was $1 for the college year. ...

The student publication changed its name to "The Ozark" with the October 1895 issue. ...

The January, 1896, issue introduced a "Law Department," with the following editors: J. Bernhardt, C.C. McRae, E.S. Pindall. An editorial suggested the publication of a yearbook:

"The time has come for the University of Arkansas to publish an Annual. It is not too late to get out an annual for '96 and The Ozark moves that the students meet at once en masse and take the initiatory steps towards issuing a superb volume that will be a credit to the University." ...

The last issue of The Ozark was a combination of May-June number 1896. The number was printed by Scholten & Agee, printers of Springfield, Mo. Proofreading and other troubles made necessary an entire page of corrections, under the heading "Errata."

Masonic Lodge Hall Torn Down

Another old Fayetteville building has been torn down - to make way for "progress." This time it is the oldest Masonic lodge hall in Arkansas - the original home of Washington Lodge No. 1 F & AM. This old two-story building was erected in the late 1830s on the site donated by Governor Archibald Yell - at what is now the corner of Rock and Block streets. The building was used for school and church purposes during the Civil War. With its destruction last month, only six ante-bellum houses are left in historic Fayetteville. Any town can have a parking lot or shopping center. Only Fayetteville HAD the oldest Masonic Hall in Arkansas. We trust the wreckers salvaged the bronze marker on the corner.

Society Cites Dr. Will Mock As Distinguished Citizen

The Washington County Historical Society honored itself July 19 when it honored Dr. Will Hugh Mock by presenting him with the Society's Distinguished Citizen" citation. The ceremony was held at the home of the veteran physician at Prairie Grove and was attended by some 200 of Dr. Mock's friends from all over northwest Arkansas.

Roy A. Scott, president of the historical society, presided. Dr. Fount Richardson, chairman of the Distinguished Citizen award committee, introduced the speaker for the occasion, Dr. H.E. Buchanan. The latter spoke in a reminiscent vein of his long acquaintance with

the honoree and of the services that Dr. Mock has rendered the people of Prairie Grove Valley for 63 years.

Dr. Mock responded with a short talk. He mentioned the hardships and rewards of a pioneer doctor and said if he were offered the opportunity he would choose the same calling and the same field of service. President Scott then presented the honoree with the citation, handsomely framed and signed by the officers and directors of the Society. Mrs. Julia Zellner Thompson read an original poem.

Following the ceremony on the front lawn, the guests were invited into the Mock home for refreshments. There was much talk, as acquaintances who hadn't seen each other in along time reviewed the past. It seems that nearly everybody in Prairie Grove is cousin to everybody else.

I should like to add my own tribute to Dr. Will Mock. I don't remember when I first met him. But I do know that every time I have seen him and spoken with him during the past quarter century, he has given me a bit of praise and encouragement for my efforts on behalf of Washington County history. He is a kind man and a friendly man and in every sense of the work a distinguished citizen of our County.

-- W.J. Lemke

(From Volume X, Number 1, January, 1960.)

The Washington County Historical Society

With this issue of FLASHBACK our Society begins its tenth year of historical activity. For the past nine years a devoted group of about 150 Washington County folks who are proud of their heritage, plus a hundred former residents now in far-away places who have not forgotten their Arkansas birthright, plus 50 schools and libraries scattered from New York to Los Angeles, and including both the New York and the Los Angeles Public Libraries –

a total of 300 history lovers - have kept our Society alive.

We are the oldest and most active county historical society in Arkansas, possibly in the entire Southwest. Our Society has twice been cited for excellence by the American Society for State and Local History. Our publications are on file in the Library of Congress in Washington and in many university and public libraries.

In spite of this national recognition, we have been unable to increase our home-county membership. There are so many activities in Fayetteville, Springdale, Prairie Grove and elsewhere in the county, that we are apt to overlook the beginning and development of our community and our university heritage. The Washington County Historical Society is the only organization devoted solely to remembering where we came from and how Fayetteville got to its present position of preeminence.

We can rest on our laurels, if so inclined. Or we can try to increase our usefulness by increasing our membership. We are therefore printing 100 extra copies of FLASHBACK and are sending these to folks who should support our efforts to preserve the story of Fayetteville and Washington County.

Membership, including subscription to FLASHBACK, is $3. This will also entitle you to participate in our other activities, such as pilgrimages to our county's historical spots, "Distinguished Citizen" awards, monthly meetings and historical auctions. Our 1960 membership card bears the earliest known picture of Fayetteville (1860).

Whether you are an old citizen or a newcomer, we need your support of our efforts to remember the past, which made our wonderful present possible.

History Notes

For the first time in its history, FLASHBACK is publishing paid advertising. Both of our first advertisers (see back cover of this issue) are long-time supporters of our efforts to tell the story of Washington County. And both are observing historical anniversaries of their own - the Northwest Arkansas Times its 100th anniversary year and the McIlroy Bank its 90th anniversary year. FLASHBACK, now in its 10th year, salutes these old and solid colleagues and thanks them for their financial support.

The Yell House

The Northwest Arkansas Times, Fayetteville daily, really started something when it reported in its issue of Dec. 16, 1959, that Bryan Walker, owner of the Archibald Yell home at the south end of College Avenue, plans to tear down this historic structure and build his new home on the site.

This fine old house, named the "Waxhaws" by its builder, after his ancestral home in North Carolina, was built about 1835. It is a superb example of the architecture of that period and is in good condition. But more important is the fact that history was made in this old house and in the smaller building, which Yell used as his law office.

Archibald Yell of Fayetteville was Arkansas' first congressman and second Governor. He might have been the state's first Governor except for the fact that the powerful Conway family secured the insertion of a residence requirement in the constitution that eliminated Yell and assured the election of James S. Conway. But Yell was elected the state's first representative in Congress and in 1840 became the second Governor. Again elected to Congress he resigned his seat in order to serve in the War

with Mexico. He was killed by a Mexican lancer in the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico, on Feb. 22, 1847.

Yell's remains, packed in charcoal in an army harness packing box, were sent to Fayetteville via New Orleans and were interred in the family burying ground southeast of where the house now stands. Twenty-four years later, after Col. T.J. Hunt had acquired possession of the Waxhaws, the remains of Colonel Yell and other members of his family were removed from South College avenue to the new Masonic burial ground, now known as Fayetteville's Evergreen Cemetery. This re-burial drew a large gathering of veterans of the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico and distinguished citizens from all parts of the state. A marble plaque on Yell's tombstone bears an inscription written by Judge David Walker of Fayetteville, whom Yell had defeated for Congress in 1844.

The dust that was Archibald Yell is indistinguishable from the soil in which it lies --- just 200 yards from Fayetteville's busy Dickson street. But the home that he built in 1835 is still standing (January, 1960) and it will remain a reminder of our pioneer past until the owner tears it down or some patriotic group raises funds for its preservation. The Northwest Arkansas Times is to be commended for its efforts to preserve this historic old house. The articles and pictures that have appeared in the paper are the work of Floyd Carl, Jr. of the Times staff, who is a great-grandson of one of Governor Yell's pioneer colleagues, Alfred M. Wilson.

The Washington County Historical Society has gone on record as approving the preservation of the Yell house. Whether funds can be secured to purchase and move and restore this historic building will probably depend on the city officials of Fayetteville. To date they have shown little interest in preserving the city's historic places. The shameful neglect of Fayetteville's first cemetery on East Mountain and the recent wrecking of the oldest Masonic

lodge hall in Arkansas are examples of civic carelessness.
-- WJL

(From Volume X, Number 2, April, 1960.)

Washington County Historical Society Incorporates

Our Society is the first county historical society to be incorporated under the laws of the State of Arkansas. On Feb. 2, 1960, Maupin Cummings, Circuit Judge, issued the following:

Order of Incorporation

Now, on this 21st day of (December), 1959, is presented to this Court, a Petition for Incorporation of the Washington County Historical Society, and the Court being well and sufficiently advised herein, finds:

That said petition for Incorporation of the Washington County Historical Society as filed in this Court by W.J. Lemke, Roy Scott, L.W. Searcy, Tom Feathers, R.E.L. Bearden, Dr. Fount Richardson, Clarence V. Davis and Mrs. Roy Brumfield, and others, a group of persons who are residents of Washington County and the State of Arkansas; that Arkansas Statutes ... provide for this proceeding and that the aforementioned group of persons have fully complied with said provisions;

It is, therefore, ordered that the Circuit Clerk of Washington County, Arkansas, issue to the Petitioners a Certificate of Incorporation, declaring them a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Washington County Historical Society, Inc."

It is so ordered, this 2nd day of February, 1960.
Maupin Cummings, CIRCUIT JUDGE

The purpose of the Society, as stated in the constitution

filed with the Articles of Incorporation, is as follows:

"The business and purpose of this corporation shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Washington County. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage."

"The Society will disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material; by holding meetings with addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; by marking historic buildings and sites; and by using the media of radio and television to awaken public interest."

Article VII of the constitution provides that "the board of directors shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the Society." Article XII says' "the original board of directors shall consist of the present board of directors as follows: W.J. Lemke, Roy Scott, L.W. Searcy, Tom Feathers, Grace Albright, R.E.L. Bearden, Dr. Fount Richardson, Mrs. Vera Wade, Clarence Davis, Mrs. Roy Brumfield, Roy Karnes, Earnest Bunch and Fred McCuistion. The length of term of each original director shall be determined by lot at first meeting of the Board."

What the Incorporation means, of course, is that the Washington County Historical Society is no longer a loosely-knit informal group of local history enthusiasts, but an organization with legal standing and as much permanence as the atomic age will allow. Article II of the Articles of Incorporation states: "The period of existence shall be perpetual."

WCHS Officers for 1960

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the WCHS was held January 26 in the Mountain Inn, Fayetteville. Speaker for the occasion was O.E. Williams, who related pioneer history of Maguiretown and the Middle Fork valley.

Reports for 1959 were given by the following officers: Roy A. Scott, Tom C. Feathers, Miss Grace Albright, and W.J. Lemke. Robert R. Logan, chairman of the nominating committee, submitted the following slate of officers for 1960: Roy A. Scott, president; Tom C. Feathers, vice president; Deane G. Carter, secretary-treasurer; W.J. Lemke, editor of publications. They were elected by acclamation.

(From Volume X, Number 3, July, 1960.)

W.S. Campbell

A man who did more than any other to keep the flame of history burning bright in Washington County died April 28, 1960, at the age of 86. He was W.S. Campbell.

I met Mr. Campbell shortly after my arrival in Fayetteville 32 years ago. He was my guide on my first visit to such historic spots as the Pea Ridge Battlefield, the Confederate Cemetery, the sites of old Arkansas College and the Fayetteville Female Seminary, and Devil's Den and White Rock Mountain. We had quite a talk about the county's past, up there on top of White Rock.

I arrived in Fayetteville shortly after the town's centennial celebration in 1928. The community 's history had just been published - W.S. Campbell's "One Hundred Years of Fayetteville." In 1936, when I served as editor of the Fayetteville Democrat's centennial edition, Mr. Campbell wrote a 15,000-word history of the town for our special centennial number.

It was my pleasure, a few years ago, to present to W.S. Campbell the citation of the Washington County Historical

Society declaring him a "Distinguished Citizen" of Washington County. The ceremony was held in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jack Hight, and it pleased W.S. very much. So he told me, in private conversation.

If I have been of any service in helping to preserve our county and city historical heritage, it is due to the inspiration of two persons; Ellen Earle Richardson who first told me the story of Old Cane Hill, and W.S. Campbell who introduced me to the romantic history of Fayetteville.

-- WJL

A Correction

If you want to find out if your publication is read, just make a mistake or two. You'll hear from your readers. This is what happened to us when we boasted in our last issue that our Society was the first county historical society in Arkansas to file Articles of Incorporation. We have heard from Benton County. The Benton County Historical Society was incorporated shortly after its organization in 1954. So we apologize and assure our readers that we will be more careful in the future with that pesky adjective "first."

(From Volume X, Number 5, December, 1960.)

News Items

The Northwest Arkansas Times of Fayetteville, in its Nov. 15 issue, reported that high school students were picketing the corner of Dickson street and College avenue, in protest against the destruction of the fine old trees on the Lawson lot which is being turned into parking area. The present owner has assured our Society that he will preserve the bronze "Battle of Fayetteville" marker that was placed on this corner by the UDC. It will remain on the corner, surrounded by an ornamental flower bed.

-- WCHS

A Brief Backward Look
1960

This special issue of FLASHBACK completes ten years of activity for the Washington County Historical Society. There's a certain satisfaction in looking back and remembering all the local history that might have been lost if we hadn't published it in our various periodicals. We owe a special debt to our predecessors, especially the Goodspeed Company that published a history of Washington County in 1889 and to W.S. Campbell who wrote his "One Hundred Years of Fayetteville" in 1928. Much local history was preserved by the Cane Hill folks - the Buchanans, J.P. Carnahan, Rev. Braly, and especially Ellen Earle Richardson. Springdale owes a debt to J.P. Stafford for recording its history. Earlier newspapermen, like J.H. Van Hoose, William Quesenbury, and Elias Boudinot, left a valuable record. The University has always had staff members who recorded history, among them D.Y. Thomas, J.C. Futrall, V.L. Jones, W.N. Gladson, J.S. Waterman, Jim P. Matthews, Harrison Hale, A.M. Harding, Jobelle Holcombe, H.G. Hotz, and many more. Other recorders of Washington County history would include Rufus J. Nelson, Rowena Gallaway, D.C. Ambrose, Billie K. Rose, Cecil Shuford, Lessie Stringfellow Read, Maude Duncan, and many more.

Our own decade (1951-1961) has produced an impressive list of writers of local history - O.E. Williams, Bernice Karnes, Tom Feathers, Ruth Holy Payne, Alan G. Skelton, R.E.L. Bearden, Jack Greathouse, A.S. Humphreys, Mrs. George L. Hilton, F.S. Root, Mrs. W.W. Vaught, Deane G. Carter, Margaret Ann Troutman - all of whose contributions have appeared from time to time in FLASHBACK.

In an age when statistics prevail and answers can be computed on an IBM machine, it is heartening to know

that there are still some folks who remember where we came from and how we got to 1961. Where we go from here is in the hands of groups that operate on a larger budget than the $1,038 that 346 dedicated members of our county historical society contributed to our work last year.

W.J. Lemke
Editor of Publications

Washington County Historical Society Membership Information and Application

For your membership in the Washington County Historical Society, you'll receive FLASHBACK, our quarterly publication featuring Washington County's history, historical articles about family and public life in the area; and FLASHFORWARD, a quarterly newsletter covering current events and activities of the Society.

Annual membership dues are for the calendar year. They include the February, May, August, and November issues of FLASHBACK. Membership amounts above the $25 general membership are tax deductible. These donations, which are tax deductible under current law, are placed in the Headquarters House Annual Fund and will help maintain Headquarters House and other structures maintained by the Washington County Historical Society.

Please check the type of membership you prefer, fill out the information below and return this with the appropriate check to the Washington County Historical Society, 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

_____ $25 - General Membership

_____ $15 - Student, Senior, Public Library Membership

_____ New Membership
_____ Renewal

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Telephone Number_____

E-mail Address_____

FLASHBACK
Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Permit No. 1

Pass this copy of FLASHBACK to a friend, then get them to join (see inside back cover) and get their *own* copy.

Serials Dept.
University Libraries
University Of Arkansas
Fayetteville AR 72701